

# SAFER SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP & DOMESTIC ABUSE NEWSLETTER

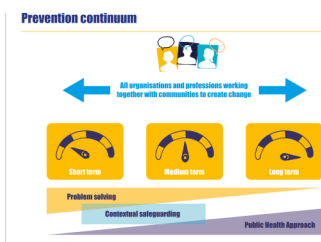
Spring edition



## UPDATES

### VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNITS TO CONTINUE FOR 2021

### NEW SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY IS SET TO BECOME LAW



Somerset Violence Reduction Unit has received confirmation of further funding from the Home Office to continue work for at least another year. Somerset will receive £362,366 to continue embedding public health approaches to violence reduction. Public health approaches use evidence to inform how we tackle the root causes of violence and effect long term change.

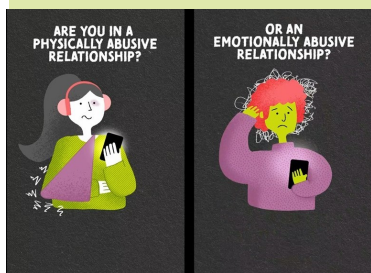
The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 coming into force this year, will set out Serious Violence Duties that will require local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. As a result of this duty, specified agencies will have to work together to identify and publish what actions they need to take collectively to reduce violent crime. Educational authorities, prisons and youth custody agencies may also be required to work with those bodies as a result of this duty. The legislation will grant these authorities the power to share data and information with each other for the purpose of preventing and reducing serious violence. It will encourage authorities to place an emphasis on early intervention with young people in order to prevent them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence in the first place. For more information click on [link](#)

## YOUNG PEOPLE, CULTURAL NORMS AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESEARCH

The VRU are pleased to announce that The Innovation Unit [www.innovationunit.org/](http://www.innovationunit.org/) have been commissioned to carry out countywide research to help us understand how social media and digital technology may influence the experience and perception of violence and exploitation amongst young people in Somerset. From March until May, young people, parents, and professionals will be involved in a program of consultation and engagement that will inform community safety and safeguarding partnerships in regards to future communication and engagement practice with young people. It will also help provide insight from young people themselves in regards to use and targeting of positive messaging and engagement in safeguarding resources and services that help build resilience against the risk of harm from violence and exploitation.

If anyone would like to know more about the research please contact VRU Manager, Clare Stuart, [c.stuart@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:c.stuart@somerset.gov.uk)

## COUNTY LINES



An advertising campaign on Tik Tok was done to raise awareness and urge youngsters to know the signs of County Lines. A 15 second video was created on this preferred social media platform for youngsters to target our core audience between the age group 13-18 years. The call to action was to report suspicious behavior on Fearless.org (Fearless is a service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously.) Targeted communication on County Lines was also

done to address schools in Sedgemoor through the bulletin that gets sent out every week to schools by Support Services of Education

## KNIFE CRIME DOCUMENTARY



Following on from people involved. It explores the issues raised by young people, what they think is driving the problem of serious violence and what can be done to combat it. It was produced with the support of Ideal Sustainable Development and Bristol film maker Owain Astels. Click on

with schools in Avon and Somerset, this short animation project documentary has been created by the young [link](#) to watch the video

## BARNARDO'S BELIEVE IN ME



An animated film from Barnardo's showing how front line workers in the night time

economy can play an important role in helping keep young people safe from sexual

exploitation. The film follows a journey of a young girl and a perpetrator and highlights how, if you feel that something just isn't quite right, you should report it. The night time economy can provide a network of eyes and ears within the community after dark. Click on [link](#) to watch the video

## SOMERSET VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT—HELPING RAISE AWARENESS OF SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

As part of Somerset's Violence Reduction Strategy 2020 — the Violence Reduction Unit set out actions to help tackle key risk factors in relation violence. This includes the promotion of resources for local services that help victims and families effected by sexual abuse.

Partners can also help raise awareness amongst professionals, potential victims and their families by sharing some of the online resources that are available locally. Somerset & Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Service (SARSAS) have guides and information on their webpages:

- [self help guides](#)
- [consent leaflets](#)
- [guides for professionals](#)

There is additional young persons guide published by Barnardos' Somerset Phoenix Project:

<https://www.somersetphoenixproject.org.uk/for-children-and-young-people/the-guide-for->



## **SAFER SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

You can access the latest Safer Somerset Partnership annual report 2020-21 from our webpage: [Safer Somerset Partnership](#) . View the downloads section to read it.

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE**



**HEALTHY TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP** - Safer Somerset Partnership launched a county wide campaign in December during the 16 days of action period to raise awareness on spotting the signs of unhealthy relationships amongst teenagers. There were two aspects of the campaign; while the first half focused on signs that teenagers should look out for in a relationship, the second one was for parents to spot signs of how their abusive relationship could have an effect on their teenager. To promote this, a second video was created and advertised on Youtube and Facebook targeting adults between the age group 30 –55 years. The video has received 31,374 views on Youtube and 49,538 on Facebook.. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

### **DIGITAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LEARNING - COMING SOON!**

SCC has commissioned a suite of 10 e-learning modules for professionals, and an eleventh module for the public, to help raise awareness of the different types of domestic abuse. There will be a focus on perpetrators as well as victims. These are scenario-based and will include a mixture of animation and dramatic video to help provide a rich learning experience. These will be free for agencies working in Somerset, and there will be a charge for organisations who wish to utilise the programme but do not have a footprint in Somerset. Further information will be available in due course, and it's anticipated they will be online in late Spring.

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL**

As many people will know the Government is introducing a new Domestic Abuse Bill for England and Wales. Somerset County Council as the "tier one authority" is leading on implementing many elements of this for Somerset, and is closely working with partner agencies, including district councils and the police to do this. Over £1million has been awarded to Somerset by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2021-22 to help meet the requirements of this bill. A needs assessment and strategy are also being devised as requirements of the bill, and will help inform how the funding should be spent.

## DHR LEARNING

Please take a look at these 4 recently published reports/briefings to understand more about the experiences of victims and professionals, and what actions are now being taken as a result of these deaths to help improve responses to those experiencing domestic abuse.

There are some recurring themes from our local DHR's regarding referrals, which we would ask you to consider in your day-to-day work, which are:

1. Completion of DASH Risk Indicator Checklists and Referrals – Please ensure you complete these in full. Recent case reviews have found that although professionals DO have information, they do not always include it in the DASH or any referral. As long as it is relevant to the current situation, please include. Otherwise referrals may be returned to you, and so lead to a delay in support being offered or MARAC being considered.
2. Timeliness of referrals – Please complete a referral as soon as possible. If a referral is appropriate (according to risk – your professional judgement or actual risk score), then it should be made to the specialist service as soon as is possible. A delay can lead to further abuse taking place.
3. A DASH Risk Indicator Checklist is NOT the referral. Many reviews have shown that professionals are not completing DASH assessments, because the victim has not consented. A DASH is your assessment of the situation. Of course ideally the victim will be fully aware of them being assessed, but you do not need their consent to do this. Their consent is only required for a referral, if they are not high risk. If they do not consent to a referral and they are high risk, then you can still refer them to MARAC. Please see the MARAC Operating Protocol, which can be found online at [Somerset MARAC – Somerset Survivors](#)

## DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS—PUBLICATION

Two Domestic Homicide Review reports have recently been published. These were:

Case 022 - This DHR concerned Susan, who died in November 2017 as a result of murder. It's understood that Susan and her former partner "Daniel" had been in a relationship for approximately 2 years. They had one son together, and both had children with former partners.

Susan and Daniel both had contact with several local agencies during their relationship and before. Nearly one year before the murder, Children Social Care had taken action to safeguard their child which led to him being adopted.

Case 023 – This DHR was completed as a result of the death of Laura in January 2018, who died as a result of dangerous driving by her partner. Laura was aged 34 years and had only been in a relationship with her partner for a few months.

Both reports can be found online at [Domestic Homicide Reviews – Somerset Survivors](#)

Additionally, two learning briefings have also been published recently as a result of two deaths that didn't meet the criteria for a DHR, but it was decided a multi-agency review meeting would be useful to determine if there were any lessons to be learnt. These are reference 027 and 032, and both can be found online at [Domestic Homicide Reviews – Somerset Survivors](#)